

REMARKS

As indicated above, this is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned Rule 1.53(b) Divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/241,085. This Preliminary Amendment is concurrently filed with the Rule 1.53(b) Divisional application.

Claims 8-11 and 19-22 are pending in this divisional application. Claims 1-7 and 12-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 8-11, 19 and 21 have been amended herein.

Claim 8 has been amended to be in independent form, incorporating the limitation of claim 3, from which it had depended. In addition, claim 8 has been amended for clarity, as discussed below:

The word “detecting” has been replaced by –determining–. This wording is the same as in the amendments made to the claims (for example, claim 23) in the prosecution of parent application U.S.S.N. 09/246,085.

The word “specific” has been inserted before “ α -fetoprotein”, and the recitation: “which is an α -fetoprotein with a specific sugar chain structure” has been added to define the term “specific α -fetoprotein”. This wording also appears in the amendments to the claims in the prosecution of parent application U.S.S.N. 09/246,085.

In line 2 of claim 8, “protein” has been replaced by –lectin or antibody–. This recitation is supported by the specification on page 12, lines 18-22.

Amendments have also been made to the other claims for clarity.

In claim 21, the recitation of “a lectin” in component (1) has been amended to – a lectin or

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antibody-①—. The additional recitation of an antibody is supported by the specification, for example on page 12, lines 18-22. The designation “antibody- ①” is to distinguish from “antibody-②” and antibody-③, recited elsewhere in the claim.

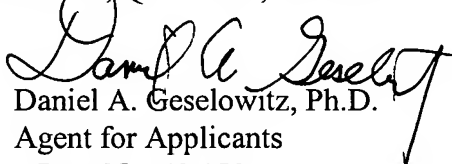
Applicants submit that no new matter is added by these amendments.

The above amendments are believed to place the in proper condition for examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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